



# FRIGHTENING FACTS

South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Councils



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *CAYRATIA JAPONICA*  
**COMMON NAME:** BUSHKILLER  
**\*KNOWN TO OCCUR IN NC\***

## WHAT IS BUSHKILLER?

**Plant Type:** perennial vine

**Family:** Vitaceae (grape)

**Form/Size:** twinning vine, may attain heights greater than 12m

**Leaves:** pedately compound, alternate, serrate (toothed), 5 leaflets, tendrils opposite from each leaf

**Flowers:** in umbels, salmon/orange, cup-shaped, blooms in late summer

**Fruit:** berry, black or white, each containing 2-4 triangular seeds

**NOTE:** no fruiting has been documented in North America (apparently sterile)

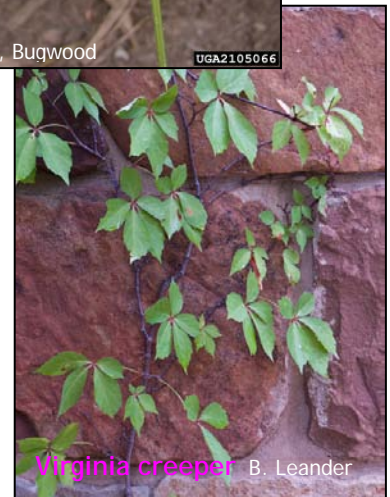
**Means of Spread:** sexual reproduction not observed in North America; vegetative reproduction by root fragments and adventitious shoots produced when roots cut/disturbed

**Similar Native Species:** *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper) has palmately compound leaves, turning red in fall; yellow/green flowers, blooms in early-mid summer; berry, green turning blue in fall



R. Richardson, Bugwood

UGA2105066



Virginia creeper B. Leander

## WHERE DID BUSHKILLER COME FROM?

**Origin:** Southeast Asia, Australia

**North American Introduction:** first record is from LA, 1964

**Reason:** unclear, possibly ornamental

## WHERE AM I LIKELY TO FIND BUSHKILLER?

**Habitat Type:** tolerates shade and full sun, damp deciduous riparian areas, developed and cultivated areas, possibly in gardens

**Distribution in SC:** none

**Distribution in NC:** Forsyth Co.

**Non-native Distribution:** LA, TX, MS, NC

## WHY IS BUSHKILLER A PROBLEM?

**Environment:** rapid growth rate; blocks sunlight by climbing over other vegetation; may break tree/shrub limbs with weight; may threaten native Gulf Coast plant communities

Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Species



# FRIGHTENING FACTS

South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Councils



Economy: no information; possible impacts to forest industry

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND BUSHKILLER?

**Report:** Take a photo, GPS location if possible, report the observation to EDDMapS: <http://www.se-eppc.org/> (location, size of infestation, etc.). In SC: Send digital photo to John Nelson at the USC Herbarium: [plantman@herbarium.org](mailto:plantman@herbarium.org) for verification.

**Control:** limited information available; little success with herbicides; digging/pulling may be an option, but all stem and root fragments must be removed

**Disposal:** proper disposal of rhizomes and root fragments is important to prevent new infestations, do not compost

## CURRENT LISTINGS:

Federal: none

State Weed Lists: none

SC EPPC Ranking: Watch B - vines

NC EPPC Ranking: Watch List - vines



## LEARN MORE!

Invasive.org (images): <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=13557>

USDA Plants Database: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CAJA7>

Invasive Plant Atlas of the MidSouth (IPAMS):

<http://www.gri.msstate.edu/ipams/Species.php?SName=Cayratia+japonica&CName=>

Bugwood Wiki (Invasipedia): [http://wiki.bugwood.org/Cayratia\\_japonica](http://wiki.bugwood.org/Cayratia_japonica)

Non-Native Woody Plants of Arkansas (Henderson State University):

<http://www.hsu.edu/default.aspx?id=6367>



Prepared for NC EPPC by Marika Godwin -  
September 2009

Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Species